

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4937

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOAHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LODDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0131

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: RH, PINT, PINS

SUBJ: SMITH WARNS OF MORE FIGHTING TO COME

1. SUMMARY: RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER SMITH TOLD NATION
FEBRUARY 6 TO PREPARE FOR INCREASED "TERRORIST" ACTIVITY
IN COMING MONTHS. SMITH SAID THAT WHATEVER RESULTS OF
CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS MAY BE, ZANU WILL HAVE TO BE CRUSHED.
ARGUMENT THAT INCREASED HOSTILITIES MAKES QUICK SETTLEMENT
IMPERATIVE DISMISSED BY SMITH WHO ARGUED THAT UNDUE HASTE
WOULD LEAD TO UNACCEPTABLE IMMEDIATE SELL-OUT TO BLACK
RULE. PM ALSO WARNED OF FURTHER SOVIET AGGRESSION IN
AFRICA, BUT PESSIMISTICALLY DOUBTED WEST'S WILL TO
RESPOND. ONLY OPTION LEFT TO RHODESIA IS "TO FIGHT ON".
END SUMMARY.

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WM RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH ADDRESSED NATION ON RADIO AND TELEVISION EVENING FEBRUARY 6. SMITH SAID THAT LULL IN "TERRORIST ACTIVITY" DURING PAST FEW MONTHS HAS NOW COME TO END. IN RECENT WEEKS LEVEL OF INCURSIONS INTO BORDER AREA ADJACENT TO MOZAMBIQUE HAVE RISEN MARKEDLY AND THAT FURTHER FIGHTING IS EXPECTED. SMITH STATED THAT DURING PAST TWO WEEKS 14 "TERRORISTS" HAVE BEEN KILLED IN AREA. (SOUTH AFRICAN SUNDAY TIMES REPORTED THAT 26 "TERRORISTS" HAVE BEEN KILLED DURING PAST MONTH. OTHER PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT GUERRILLAS NOW OPERATING IN SOUTHEASTERN RHODESIA IN ADDITION TO MORE CUSTOMARY NORTH-EASTERN SECTOR OF OPERATIONS.)

3. SMITH SAID THREAT WILL MEAN THAT RHODESIA "SHALL HAVE TO INCREASE OUR FORCE LEVELS IN THE FIELD", INDICATING THAT LARGER MILITARY CALL-UPS SHOULD BE EXPECTED. HE STATED THAT RHODESIANS WILL NEED GREATER "MORAL COURAGE" TO WITHSTAND PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE AND TO NOT GIVE UP HOPE, FOR "IF WE WERE TO SURRENDER THE REINS OF GOVERNMENT NOTHING WOULD BE MORE CERTAIN THAN THE INEVITABILITY OF CIVIL WAR BETWEEN BLACKS IN RHODESIA." NEW GUERRILLA FIGHTING WILL CAUSE SOME TO ARGUE THAT A RAPID CONSTITUTIONAL SETTLEMENT IS ALL THE MORE URGENT. IN REGARD TO THIS SMITH MADE TWO POINTS: FIRST IS THAT ONLY SETTLEMENT HE COULD OBTAIN IN HASTE WOULD BE ONE INVOLVING IMMEDIATE SELL-OUT TO BLACK RULE. THIS UNACCEPTABLE AND NEGOTIATIONS WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE SLOWLY "IN THE MANNER OF AFRICA". SECONDLY, SMITH SAID AIM OF ZANU IS DOMINATION OVER ALL PEOPLE IN RHODESIA BY MEANS OF TERRORISM, THUS ZANU MUST BE DECISIVELY DEFEATED, "IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER OR NOT THE CONSTITUTIONAL DISCUSSIONS REACH A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION".

4. SMITH COMMENTED ON SITUATION IN ANGOLA, ASSERTING THAT FOR YEARS HIS GOVERNMENT HAD WARNED AGAINST COMMUNIST MENACE IN AFRICA AND THAT SOVIET GOAL IS CREATION OF "SADDLE" ACROSS AFRICA WHICH WILL THEN PRESS DOWN ON RHODESIA AND SOUTH WEST AFRICA. SMITH STATED THAT DESPITE RUSSIAN AGGRESSION, WEST WILL PROBABLY NOT RESPOND. "UNFORTUNATELY THERE IS NO CHURCHILL ALIVE TODAY TO BRING HOME TO THEM THE FOLLY OF SUCH APEASEMENT." FACED WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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INCREASED GUERRILLA HOSTILITY AND SOVIET AGGRESSION, SMITH STATED THAT "THERE IS ONLY ONE COURSE OPEN TO US--TO FIGHT ON".

5. COMMENT: SMITH'S APPARENT REASSERTION OF HIS OLD "TOUGH IT OUT" LINE COMES AT TIME WHEN INDICATIONS ARE THAT SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH NKOMO NEARING DEAD END. SMITH'S SPECIFIC REJECTION OF LINE OF ARGUMENT URGING QUICK SETTLE-

MENT TO AVOID MORE BLOODSHED IN MARKED CONTRAST TO POSITION
OF SAG FONMIN MULLER WHO REPORTEDLY SAID ON BRITISH
TELEVISION FEBRUARY 8 THAT BOTH SMITH AND NKOMO "MUST
BE REALISTIC AND REALIZE THAT WHAT HAPPENED IN ANGOLA
COULD BE REPEATED SOMEWHERE ELSE".
BOWDLER

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